

**DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE FOR POLICY**

4 Dec 86

Memo for

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For your information.

Philip Kunsberg



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1 December 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Space Station Negotiations (C)

(C) It has come to my attention that, notwithstanding my non-concurrence last July on the draft Circular 175 authorizing negotiations on international participation in the Space Station, such negotiations have in fact proceeded. Of far greater concern than the procedural impropriety involved, however, are the possible national security implications of the course these negotiations have recently taken.

(C) I am advised that the Canadians, the Japanese and the nations involved in the European Space Agency have, to varying degrees, stressed the importance they attach to two features of the Space Station: 1) its civil character and 2) a genuine "international partnership" in all respects of the station's design, manning, and use. Obviously, such interests could be prejudicial to our future ability to use this asset in support of vital U.S. defense and intelligence functions.

(C) We are assured by NASA that such U.S. options have not been foreclosed in the negotiations to date. I am, nonetheless, concerned that a real danger exists that either explicitly through the agreed management/ownership arrangement for the Space Station or de facto as a result of high-level political interventions, we may see an effective foreign veto over U.S. use of the station for such activities as SDI experimentation.

(C) I am sure you agree that our ability fully to realize the potential benefits of an investment of at least \$8 billion in the Space Station -- an asset that is expected to be operated for many years to come -- must be preserved. In the absence of senior policy review of the nature and direction of the arrangements being made for foreign "partnership" in the Space Station, however, I believe we will almost certainly find our freedom of action with respect to its future utilization sharply curtailed. As these negotiations are continuing on an aggressive schedule (ESA this week, the Japanese next, and the Canadians shortly thereafter), I urge you to direct that the Space Senior Interagency Group be promptly convened to consider these policy issues and to make recommendations about any adjustments in our negotiating posture and positions, which may be deemed necessary. Obviously, until such a review is completed, we would be well-advised to suspend further negotiations with our allies.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jay Byrnes".

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

POLICY

December 4, 1986

In reply refer to:
I-15417/86MEMORANDUM FOR ACTING ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Space Station Negotiations (U)

(C) In his 1 December memorandum, Secretary Weinberger identified a number of fundamental policy issues regarding the Space Station and requested that negotiations with potential participants be suspended pending SIG (Space) review of our concerns.

(C) A preliminary interagency discussion on 2 December, chaired by the NSC, has not resulted in action to suspend the talks or in specific plans to convene a SIG (Space). Rather, the interagency group was asked to quickly review a new draft agreement in hopes of permitting NASA to table it during next weeks scheduled talks with the European Space Agency.

(C) Upon preliminary review of the new draft we continue to have important reservations regarding U.S. control and management of this major national resource. Judging from discussions at the 2 December meeting, other agencies share many of our concerns. Without the benefit of clear senior direction on the fundamental policy issues and basic national objectives, and without fully coordinated negotiating instructions and draft agreements, we should not continue official talks with potential foreign participants.

(C) We believe that realistic solutions to our concerns are achievable once essential questions of Space Station ownership, control and management are answered. The answers, to be sound, must be anchored in firm core program concepts. To define and validate these enabling concepts, I hope you will agree to arrange a SIG(Space) meeting in the very near future as Secretary Weinberger has requested. In the meantime, negotiations should be deferred, or at least, there should be no substantive discussion or new proposals offered by the U.S. side concerning the issues of ownership, management and control.


Fred C. IkleClassified by: DASD, NF&ACP
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